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THE

MARINER

FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION FOUR



SATURDAY, 24th MARCH, 1979

KICK OFF 3 p.m.

**TOWN versus
WIGAN ATHLETIC**

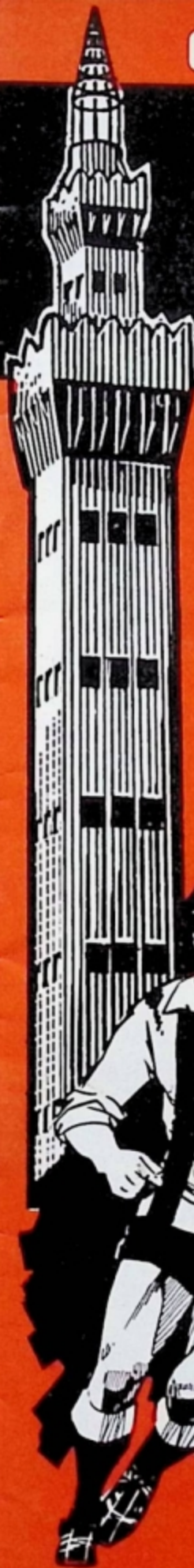


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**OFFICIAL
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15p



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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

The weather and recent results have, between them, contrived to produce the most complex situation at the top of the Fourth Division. Not only do we have constant jockeying for the top four places, but there remains a disparity between some of the promotion contenders in both matches played and the number of home matches which have still to be completed.

The intriguing project, therefore, is that the issue of who plays in Division Three next season may be a protracted business, with Barnsley, in particular, having the opportunity to change the picture a good deal as they catch up on their backlog of fixtures.

In the meantime, of course, the meetings between the top clubs take on a crucial importance, and, having rather unluckily dropped a home point against Aldershot last week, the Mariners will regard this afternoon's game with Wigan as a vital part of their effort to consolidate their own promotion prospects.

Having been required to prepare these notes in advance of the midweek games, my observations may have been overtaken by further dramatic changes in the relative situations of the leading group of clubs, but it would appear that seven teams are now contending the four places in the Third Division.

Among those seven teams, we are well placed if we can take advantage of opportunities such as this afternoon's match affords. Confidence is still extremely high behind the scenes at Blundell Park and, with the all-out backing of Town supporters, I am sure that we can be at least in the top four at the end of the season — and possibly Champions, too!

Grimsby v Bournemouth — Bournemouth defender makes a hasty clearance from the oncoming Bob Cumming
Photograph Courtesy "The New Shopper"



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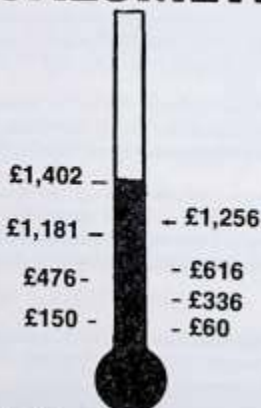
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*Grimsby v Bournemouth - Clive Wigginton goes up for a corner
Photograph Courtesy "The New Shopper"*

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WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT US . . .

SUNDAY MIRROR: Grimsby 0, Aldershot 0. Grimsby's high-scoring attack couldn't break down a heroic Aldershot defence in a dour battle for promotion points. With Eire international Joe Waters dictating matters in midfield, the Mariners started off in great style in the driving rain. A brilliant move by Grimsby involving Waters and Liddell opened the Aldershot defence, but Edwards just managed to get in front of Ford before the striker could get in his shot.

□ □ □ □ □

NEWS OF THE WORLD: Grimsby 0, Aldershot 0. Aldershot soaked up tremendous Grimsby pressure during the first half and hardly mustered an attack. Twice they were let of the hook in quick succession, Winger Tony Ford scored with a good shot for Grimsby, but referee Michael Lowe disallowed the point for off-side against another player.

□ □ □ □ □

DAILY MAIL: Rochdale 2, Grimsby 5. Grimsby crashed into third place in Division Four after a fantastic fightback. That scoreline was unkind to Rochdale. But Grimsby's sensational comeback had the stamp of promotion all over it.

□ □ □ □ □

SATURDAY TELEGRAPH (ROY LINE): Grimsby 0, Aldershot 0. The Mariners controlled it from the start. They fought well, challenged for every ball, played some splendid football and against a less competent defence than Aldershot's who had not conceded a goal in their last three games - the Mariners might well have been in front. It was obviously a contest between two good sides which one goal would separate.

MICK McGARRY

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GRIMSBY TOWN RESERVES

By George Kerr

Middlesbrough fielded their recent signing from Yugoslavia in this game, also playing was their big money signing from Burnley, Terry Cochran.

Our side included Michael Lester playing in midfield for the first time this season. The Grimsby team was: Wainman, Mawer, Graves, Shelton, Barker, Young, Booth, Lester, Wainwright, Wilbor, Partridge, Sub. Kerr.

The result of the game was a convincing 4-2 victory for Middlesbrough, our goalscorers were Wilbor and Partridge.

Terry Donovan is at last ready for football action once again and should play at least one Reserve game before you read these notes.

David Collins who has not had the best of seasons injury wise, is once again having trouble with a nasty blister on the back of his heel, which means he cannot get his boot on.

Geoff Barker tells me that the Middlesbrough centre forward would not talk to him during the Reserve game — it was nothing personal Geoff, he can't speak or, at the moment understand English yet.

Good to see Gary Liddell coming back into the League side so quickly, don't forget that he has not had the match practice that he would probably have liked.

Michael Lester, playing in midfield, did quite well at times. Michael feels himself that he is better at moving from the midfield positions going forward, rather than receiving the ball with his back to goal and having to turn and then go at defenders. However, Michael's problem at the moment is that he is out the side and is going to have to fight to get his best form back — for everybody's benefit.

It is a funny thing, form, it comes and goes, sometimes it happens to top class players like Butch Wilkins for example. Last year he was the player on everybody's lips, now he is having a bad time, but he will come again — because he is a great player. Top class players or Fourth Division players, the problem is just the same, and you have got to fight your way through it.

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GOSSIP AROUND THE GROUND

Congratulations to Joe Waters and Kevin Moore on being elected by the Professional Footballers Association as Fourth Division "Players of the Year". It shows the standing these two lads are held in by their colleagues at other clubs. Members of the P.F.A. cannot vote for players at their own clubs so for that very reason the award is even more momentous.

While congratulations are flying about how about John Newman being Manager of the Month! and winning a gallon of Scotch. I'm sure to, that John is delighted with the award to Joe and Kevin, as it reflects well on the club and the standing it holds with other professionals

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Players and staff recently took time out to visit Harveys, the local firm specialising in plant hire. Arising out of the visit, we are delighted to announce Harveys will be sponsoring the Scunthorpe United fixture in April.

Talking of sponsorship, Mick McGarry will be sponsoring the Barnsley game on 21st April.

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Sad to relate, Kevin Drinkell failed his driving test. When asked for his comments, Manager John Newman said "As long as the lad keeps his foot down in front of the goal, I'm not bothered".

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A note for your diaries: Monday, 14th May, is the date for a benefit match for the late Brian Stratford. Brian was well known to all local footballers as a man of great dedication for the game he loved. His untimely death came as a great shock to all who knew him, particularly as he had just guided Brigg Town to winning the Midland League Championship. After the game on the 14th May, there will be a dance at the Beachcomber and all true lovers of football are asked to support this very worthwhile venture. Tickets will be on sale shortly at a number of local places including the Promotions Office.

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The Management and Directors were pleased to act as hosts to the Grimsby Sunday League for their recent Cup Final between Empire United 2nd's and Young's Seafoods. A great game resulted the final score being 3-3

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Everyone connected with the club, wish Harry Wainman every success in his new sports shop which will be opening in the Freeman Centre on the 30th March. The shop is close to Tony's News Kiosk, so all Town supporters know where to go for their sports gear.

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Mr. R. W. Poole of Watford, a Grimmerian in exile, recently wrote to the club enclosing a donation. A supporter for fifty years, Mr. Poole does not get the chance to see Town very often, but was delighted to see the Mariners on "Match of the Day". He was pleased to see five local lads in the side, playing such a vital part in the drive for promotion. As Mr. Poole says "There must be many Town supporters living away, who follow the team's fortunes with interest". Just goes to show, once a Grimmerian or Meggie, always a Grimmerian or Meggie.

• • • • •

The late Mr. J. Bratley, of Ash Farm Cottage, N. Willingham, Market Rasen, who was a loyal and keen supporter for fifty years and who always sat in the Osmond Stand. Passed away on the 4th March, aged 67. The Football Club were pleased to carry out his family's request for his ashes to be scattered near his Osmond Stand seat.

GRIMSBY TOWN F.C. YOUTH DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

YOUNG PLAYER OF THE WEEK

RICKY GREENOUGH

Although born in Yorkshire, he has lived in Cleethorpes for most of his life, and attended the Lindsey Comprehensive School, for whom he played. Now in his 2nd spell with the club, having tried his luck with local sides at the start of the season, he is still trying to find his best position. Being at home at centre back or centre forward, where his 6'2" height and big frame come in very useful. The recent bad weather prevented him from making his debut in the Reserves. Aged 17 years, he is an apprentice fitter with Courtaulds.

Training equipment for our "Young Player of the Week" has kindly been donated by:
PETER NILSSON (CEI) M.I.P., "Plenticost", Church Lane, North Thoresby.
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Our previous donors this season have been: J. Woolfitt - Patrons Toby Inn - Bamberger - Warwick Damp Courses Ltd. - G. W. Duffield - Mr. Roy Young - Humberside Wrappings Ltd. - Mirracare - Sports Supply Co.

£1 MONTHLY CLUB CASH PRIZE WINNERS - FEBRUARY '79: No. 185 - Mr. Lidgard, Ayselsby.
WINNER £5 PREMIUM BOND: Mr. T. Upcraft, 17 Ashridge Drive, Cleethorpes.

Although the Juniors have not had much success in recent matches, apart from a fine 2-1 win over Newcastle United away from home, it has to be said that in the defeats against Hull, Middlesbrough, Sunderland and Lincoln, they have had to battle against full-time professional sides. Our own team has contained only two or three at the most. The non-availability of, and injuries to key players, together with our policy of giving at least one trialist a game, have not helped the team to settle. However the Colts are doing well, and the young players recently promoted from the F.C.Y.D.A. team are more than pleasing Martin Teanby. He tells me that goalkeeper Andy Ware, defenders Mark Blackburne, Keith Ottley, Mark Appleyard, midfielders Andrew Hardy, Andy Colebrook and striker Paul Sykes, all 15 years old, have turned in fine games as the team has recorded a number of good wins. The first team are certainly pushing hard for promotion and although they did not get that elusive goal against Aldershot, I hope our young lads took note of all the good points we produced in the game. They were a credit to themselves, the boss, his staff, the club and football in general. You are on the right lines for promotion lads, so keep it going. I hope the more experienced players won't mind, but I would like to single out Dave Moore, who on his performance looks as if he has arrived. Well done. Division Three, watch out! Congratulations to Kevin Moore and Joe Waters on their Fourth Division P.F.A. Awards, and on being the first Grimsby lads to win a place in the awards team.

BERNARD J. FLEMING

GOING TO READING ?

GRIMSBY, A16 via Louth, Boston and Spalding to Market Deeping then turn left along the A15 by-passing Peterborough to Norman Cross (92 Miles). South along the A1 and the A1(M) by-passing Biggleswade, Baldock, Stevenage and Welwyn to Hatfield (147 Miles). A405 by-passing St. Albans, Watford and Rickmansworth, then continue along the A412 via Denham to the "Crooked Bille" Public House (Roundabout). Take 2nd road and 1 1/2 miles on, turn right along the B470 to the M4 Motorway (180 Miles). Follow signs "South Wales" along the M4 for 17 miles to intersection (10) Reading, Wokingham, A329(M) (197 Miles). Follow signs "Reading" along the A329(M) and at end of motorway continue along the A4 to Reading entering by London Road. At end turn right along Southampton Street then left along the Inner Distribution Road to the 1st roundabout. Turn left along Castle Hill and 1/2 mile on turn right along Tilehurst Road to: READING FOOTBALL GROUND (203 Miles).

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NEW PROGRAMME

Pleased to announce our new programme featured in the top six for the Fourth Division with the Northern Programme Centre Awards of the year. The competition was judged by 200 members of the centre, so it gives a fair reflection of the football public's opinions, and we're delighted to be included in the winner's list.

• • • • •

MARINERS LOTTERY

The Mariners Lottery will be drawn on Wednesday night at the Nunsthorpe Tavern, and if you're not going to the vital Town v Reading game, maybe you would like to join us at the Tavern for the draw.

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OLD PROGRAMME

There is a request from Peter Nielson of 26 Gypsy Lane, Hunter Bridge, Kings Langley, Herts., WD4 8PR. Peter urgently needs a Grimsby v Watford League Cup programme from last year, so please contact him at the above address if you can help.

FOURTH DIVISION SCENE

By now the outcome of the crucial mid-week games will be known. With all seven promotion contenders in action, the picture at the top of the table may have drastically altered to when these notes were written.

Reading, after an impressive run of victories, came unstuck at home to Scunthorpe, losing for the first time this season at Elm Park. The Iron's manager Ron Ashman sprang a surprise by relegating Kevin Kilmore to the substitute's bench and replacing him with Steve Earl. An eight minute goal by transfer listed Nolan Keely, only his second of the season, was enough to give Scunthorpe their shock win. Reading forced 21 corners but were unable to break a resolute United defence, ably marshalled by Stephen Deere. Graeme Crawford, as usual produced a faultless display in goal.

Wigan are still keeping well in touch. Two home successes against Torquay and Stockport have put them into fifth spot, and if they picked up something at Rochdale on Monday night, they may be even higher. Second half goals from Wright and Smart accounted for Stockport before a crowd of 7,610 at Springfield Park.

Last Saturday's bad weather caused more fixture problems for Barnsley and Wimbledon. The Londoners have seventeen fixtures to complete and Allan Clarke's boys sixteen. The pressure is really on these two teams as they know they have to win their games in hand to get among the leaders. It took Barnsley some time to click after the last lay-off. So games in hand are not always an advantage. Most managers prefer to have the points in the bag.

Interesting point is that after 31 games in the Championship winning campaign of 1971/72, Town had an almost identical playing record to the present one. Seven years ago it was: P31, W18, D5, L8, F61, A33, Pts.41. Under McMenemy, the Mariners took twenty points from their remaining fifteen games and won the title. Such is the fierce competition this season it will probably require between 63 and 66 points to take the top spot, but 60 points should be enough to claim one of the four promotion places.

Harry Wainman Sports

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Aug. 15	York City (F.L. Cup 2)	3	0	2,464	Batch	Mawer	Moore K.	Walters	Barker	Crombie	Ford	Dunovan 1	Lester	Mitchell	Cunning	Liddell
Aug. 19	Reading	1	2	3,917	Batch	Mawer	Moore K.	Walters	Barker	Crombie	Ford	Dunovan 2	Lester 1	Mitchell	Cunning	Liddell
Aug. 23	Wigan Athletic	3	0	8,227	Batch	Mawer	Moore K.	Walters	Barker	Crombie	Ford	Dunovan 2	Lester	Mitchell	Cunning	Liddell
Aug. 28	Hullian Town	2	1	2,055	Batch	Mawer	Moore K.	Walters	Barker	Crombie	Ford 1	Dunovan 1	Lester	Mitchell	Broly	Liddell
Aug. 30	Manchester City (F.L. Cup 2)	0	2	21,481	Batch	Mawer	Moore K.	Walters	Barker	Crombie	Ford	Dunovan	Lester	Mitchell	Cunning	Liddell
Sept. 2	Torquay United	2	0	3,934	Batch	Mawer	Moore K. 1	Walters	Barker	Crombie	Ford	Dunovan	Lester	Cunning	Broly 1	Liddell
Sept. 9	Darlington	1	0	2,220	Batch	Mawer	Moore K.	Walters	Barker	Crombie	Ford	Liddell	Lester	Young	Broly 1	Partridge
Sept. 12	Wimborne	2	2	6,792	Batch	Mawer	Moore K.	Walters	Barker	Crombie	Ford	Liddell	Lester	Young	Broly	Partridge
Sept. 16	Hartlepool Utd.	0	1	4,729	Batch	Walters	Moore K.	Young	Barker	Crombie	Ford	Liddell	Lester	Mitchell	Broly	Dinkell
Sept. 23	Crew Alexandra	3	0	1,800	Batch	Mawer	Moore K. 1	Walters	Barker	Crombie	Ford	Liddell 2	Dinkell	Partridge	Broly	Young
Sept. 26	Huddersfield Town	0	2	4,238	Batch	Mawer	Moore K.	Walters	Barker	Crombie	Ford	Liddell	Dinkell	Partridge	Broly	Young
Sept. 30	Rochdale	4	0	3,881	Batch	Mawer	Moore K.	Walters	Barker	Crombie	Ford	Liddell 2	Dinkell	Partridge	Broly 2	Young
Oct. 7	Fleet Vale	1	1	3,433	Batch	Mawer	Moore K.	Walters	Barker	Crombie	Ford	Liddell 1	Dinkell	Partridge	Broly	Young
Oct. 14	Porthsmouth	1	0	3,131	Batch	Mawer	Moore K. 1	Walters	Barker	Crombie	Ford	Liddell	Dinkell	Partridge	Broly	Young
Oct. 17	Northampton Town	4	3	5,529	Batch	Mawer	Moore K.	Walters	Barker	Crombie	Ford	Liddell	Dinkell	Young	Broly	Cunning
Oct. 21	A.F.C. Bournemouth	0	2	3,353	Batch	Mawer	Moore K.	Walters	Barker	Crombie	Ford	Liddell	Dinkell	Young	Broly	Cunning
Oct. 28	Heestold Utd.	1	1	5,249	Batch	Mawer	Moore K.	Walters	Barker	Crombie	Ford	Liddell	Dinkell 1	Young	Broly	Cunning
Nov. 4	Alberston	0	2	3,558	Batch	Mawer	Moore K.	Walters	Barker	Crombie	Ford	Liddell	Dinkell	Young	Broly	Cunning
Nov. 11	Torquay Utd.	1	3	3,136	Batch	Moore D.	Moore K.	Walters	Barker	Crombie	Broly	Partridge	Dinkell 1	Cunning	Mitchell	Ford
Nov. 18	Hullian Town	2	1	4,128	Batch	Moore D.	Moore K. 1	Walters	Barker	Crombie	Broly	Partridge	Dinkell	Cunning	Mitchell	Ford
Nov. 25	Hartlepool (F.A. Cup 1)	0	1	3,584	Batch	Moore D.	Moore K.	Walters	Barker	Crombie	Broly	Mitchell	Dinkell	Cunning	Broly	Lester
Dec. 9	Newport County	1	0	3,665	Batch	Moore D.	Moore K.	Walters	Barker 1	Crombie	Broly	Ford	Lester	Mitchell	Cunning	Dinkell
Dec. 14	Stockport County	1	2	3,300	Batch	Moore D.	Moore K. 1	Walters	Barker	Crombie	Broly	Lester	Dinkell	Mitchell	Cunning	Ford
Dec. 23	York City	3	0	4,339	Batch	Moore D.	Moore K.	Walters	Barker	Crombie	Broly	Mitchell	Lester	Cunning	Broly	Dinkell
Dec. 26	Scunthorpe Utd	1	2	8,165	Batch	Moore D.	Moore K.	Walters	Barker	Crombie	Ford	Mitchell	Lester	Cunning	Broly	Dinkell
Jan. 1	Barnford City	5	3	4,995	Batch	Moore D.	Moore K.	Walters	Barker	Crombie	Ford 3	Mitchell 1	Lester	Cunning	Broly	Dinkell
Jan. 13	Darlington	7	2	5,387	Batch	Moore D. 1	Moore K.	Walters 1	Barker	Crombie	Ford 1	Mitchell	Lester 4	Cunning	Broly	Dinkell
Jan. 20	Hartlepool Utd.	0	1	2,212	Batch	Moore D.	Moore K.	Walters	Barker	Crombie	Broly	Mitchell	Lester	Cunning	Broly	Dinkell
Feb. 3	Huddersfield Town	2	1	4,921	Batch	Moore D.	Moore K.	Walters 1	Barker	Crombie	Broly	Ford 1	Lester	Mitchell	Cunning	Dinkell
Feb. 24	Porthsmouth	3	1	12,702	Batch	Moore D.	Moore K.	Walters	Barker	Crombie	Broly 1	Ford 2	Lester	Mitchell	Cunning	Dinkell
Feb. 27	Crew Alexandra	2	2	6,598	Batch	Moore D.	Moore K.	Walters	Barker	Crombie	Broly	Ford 1	Lester	Mitchell	Cunning	Dinkell
March 3	A.F.C. Bournemouth	1	0	5,478	Batch	Moore D.	Moore K.	Walters 1	Wigginton	Crombie	Broly	Ford 1	Lester	Mitchell	Cunning	Dinkell
March 10	Heestold Utd. (FAC 6)	1	0	2,829	Batch	Moore D.	Moore K.	Walters	Wigginton	Crombie	Broly	Ford 3	Dinkell	Mitchell	Cunning	Liddell
March 33	Horsbade	3	0	2,309	Batch	Moore D.	Moore K.	Walters	Wigginton	Crombie	Broly 1	Ford 3	Liddell	Mitchell 1	Cunning	Liddell

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
March 17 Aldershot																																	
March 20 Wimbeldon																																	
March 24 Wigan Athletic																																	
March 28 Reading																																	
March 31 Doncaster Rovers (FAC SF)																																	
April 3 Port Vale																																	
April 7 Stockport County																																	
April 13 York City																																	
April 14 Scunthorpe Utd.																																	
April 16 Bradford City																																	
April 21 Barnsley																																	
April 24 Northampton Town																																	
April 28 Newport County																																	
May 5 Doncaster Rovers																																	
May 8 Barnsley																																	
May 12 F.A. Cup Final																																	

FOURTH DIVISION LEAGUE TABLE

Up to and including 17th March, 1979

	P	H	A	W	D	L	Pts
1	35	13	5	1	26	8	45
2	32	11	4	2	29	16	43
3	26	11	2	1	28	15	41
4	32	12	2	4	20	17	41
5	28	9	2	3	32	15	40
6	30	11	3	2	27	8	37
7	33	10	3	5	27	16	36
8	30	11	3	5	27	16	36
9	32	8	5	26	15	23	32
10	31	7	6	2	21	13	28
11	31	7	6	2	21	13	28
12	31	9	3	2	20	10	29
13	30	6	3	5	22	19	29
14	32	7	4	6	19	17	29
15	30	5	6	4	21	20	28
16	28	5	4	4	15	14	28
17	30	5	4	4	15	14	28
18	30	5	4	4	15	14	28
19	29	7	4	5	20	20	27
20	29	7	4	5	20	20	27
21	29	7	4	5	20	20	27
22	29	7	4	5	20	20	27
23	29	7	4	5	20	20	27
24	29	7	4	5	20	20	27
25	29	7	4	5	20	20	27
26	29	7	4	5	20	20	27
27	29	7	4	5	20	20	27
28	29	7	4	5	20	20	27
29	29	7	4	5	20	20	27
30	29	7	4	5	20	20	27

GOAL SCORERS FOR THE MARINERS

Up to and including Aldershot

TONY FORD	10
KEVIN MOORE	7
MIKE BROLLY	7
BOB CUMMING	7
GARY LIDDELL	6
MIKE LESTER	5
JOE WATERS	5
TERRY DRINKELL	4
KERRY DONOVAN	3
BOBBY MITCHELL	2
GEOFF BARKER	1
MARTIN YOUNG	1
DAVE MOORE	1
O.G.	3

NORTH MIDLANDS FOOTBALL LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Middlesbrough	18	14	3	1	47	13	31
Sunderland	20	8	9	3	38	22	25
Lincoln	18	9	3	6	38	24	21
Hull City	17	7	6	4	30	23	20
Barnsley	18	9	2	7	24	22	20
GRIMSBY	17	7	4	6	29	22	18
Scunthorpe	19	7	3	9	22	30	17
Notts. County	15	6	4	5	22	14	16
Bradford	14	6	2	6	23	31	14
Rotherham	16	6	1	9	26	29	13
Mansfield	16	6	1	9	10	28	13
Chelsterfield	14	3	6	5	13	20	12
Hullfax	16	4	4	8	19	35	12
Derlington	13	3	5	5	12	14	11
York City	18	4	3	11	18	39	11
Doncaster	13	2	4	7	11	21	8

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*Grimsby v Bournemouth - Bob Cumming challenges for the ball in the Bournemouth box
Photograph Courtesy "The New Shopper"*

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Wishing Grimsby Town F.C. every success during the season

MASTER MARINER

Charlie Wright

Patrons of the Pontoon Stand old enough to remember Charlie, will surely also recall the small girl who would jump over the fence as he ran down towards the Pontoon end and present him with an orange before the game commenced. Charlie must have been one of the most popular players with the fans in the last twenty years. Blundell Parkites, if nothing else, appreciate honest endeavour and Charlie certainly gave us that in two short three year spells he spent guarding the Mariners' goal, in 129 League matches.

A model in concentration, he was a fitting successor to a distinguished line of Town goalkeepers — Jim Whitehouse, Martin Spendiff, Tom Read, George Tweedy, George Moulson, Charlie Williams, Alan Bennett.

Charlie was a Glaswegian by birth, and after a spell at Rangers, entered English football with Workington. He joined the Mariners in 1963 for a bargain fee of £5,000. Town after gaining promotion at the end of the 1961-62 season found life in the higher sphere harder, and by Christmas were 21st in the table. Charlie was a major factor in the team's revival that saw them escape relegation and finish the season on a high note, beating Bury 5-1.

During his spell at Blundell Park rumours were rife about Charlie moving to the First Division. However, it was to Charlton Athletic that he transferred his allegiance in 1966, Town pocketing £8,000. Charlie finished his playing career at Bolton Wanderers where he was instrumental in helping the Trotters gain promotion to Division 2 in 1973/74.

Now sampling the precarious world of football management at York City, Charlie, I'm sure has the good wishes of Mariners supporters, and in particular the woman who as a young girl fifteen years ago ensured he got plenty of vitamin C.

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Supporters Club Notes . . .

The pressure at the top of the Fourth Division is unrelenting this season and the promotion places are obviously going to the teams who do not crack under these pressures. As these notes are written on a Monday morning, no account can be taken of midweek games and all we can do is hope that the Town got a result at Wimbledon on Tuesday last and that some of our rivals at least have dropped points.

Whether or not Aldershot are a good side, we don't know, because last Saturday they certainly did not come to Blundell Park to play, but it must be admitted they have a well organised defence and I suppose they achieved their object in getting a goalless draw. Personally I thought Town played very well on an appalling pitch and was delighted with the backing from the crowd.

Once again today we meet a team in Wigan who are pushing hard for the top and can expect another hard game. A repeat of last Saturday's form, coupled with a bit of luck in front of goal and the same sort of backing from the crowd can give Town the two points we need. Here's hoping!

P. DIXON

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comments from John Newman



After one hell of a battle in the mud against Aldershot last weekend, they were lucky to go home with a point under their belts. It was a good honest performance from all of our players, who gave everything in the attempt to gain those two vital points. A couple of decisions went against us, and believe me without the breaks in that direction it makes it very hard. I would also like to take this opportunity on behalf of all the Mariners to thank you all for the tremendous support given.

It is coming to the hard part of the season, the time when the men are sorted out from the boys, and it is during this time that you find out those who want to keep going and those who don't. I know for certain that all the player's at Blundell Park know what is expected from them, they want success and with the right breaks I feel sure that this will happen, but one thing which must not be forgotten is the hard work!!

Whilst writing these notes, my mind is fixed on the mid-week game at Wimbledon, and we all know how important this game is. Let's hope that we can achieve the results I know we deserve.

Wigan, our visitors today, are another good side and will be very hard to beat, but that is the way we like it, so get stuck in lads and give us those vital points.



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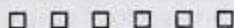
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KEYWORD NUMBER THIRTEEN

Solve the across clues. The shaded part will then spell out the name of a leading football journalist

CLUES:

1. Orient and ex Palace 'keeper
2. World Cup winners 1930 and 1950
3. Ex-Mariners' trainer who managed Leeds United
4. In contact with someone off the field of play?
5. Man. Utd. and England half-back, victim of Munich disaster
6. N. Ireland home park
7. Arsenal and England player, later manager of Stoke City
8. Leeds and Scotland striker
9. Highbury and Lords brothers
10. Park famous for its 'roar'

1									
2									
3									
4									
5									
6									
7									
8									
9									
10									

SOLUTION TO KEYWORD NUMBER TWELVE

1. Vfb, 2. Stein, 3. Graydon, 4. Summerbee, 5. Rensenbrink, 6. MacDonald, 7. The Owls, 8. Turin, 9. Ade. - Continental Club: FEYENOORD

POINT OF CONTROVERSY

With the big freeze-up and the first million pound transfer hogging most of the soccer headlines recently referees have, happily, been less in the news recently. One says happily since the best refereeing performances are almost always those which attract least attention, because the games are being controlled unobtrusively.

One man, who seemed determined, however, to put the men in the middle right back in the limelight recently was the referee in charge of the fifth round Crystal Palace v Wolves game. The game itself was unspectacular enough with Wolves just managing to beat the eager young Londoners by the only goal of the game. Most of the 25,000 odd present, however, will long remember one particular incident that shocked fans on both sides.

FIVE MINUTES . . .

This was the one in which Wolves striker NORMAN BELL went down after a heavy tackle by Palace defender PETER NICHOLAS. The tackle may, or may not, have been an unfair one. That is not the point at issue. The referee was perfectly entitled to let the game go on from that point of view if he did not consider a foul had been committed. Fair or unfair, however, Bell went down with a sickening crack that was heard by players and spectators nearby. The ball moved towards the other end of the field and despite appeals from some players and from the crowd and despite Wolves' trainer and Manager standing anxiously on the touchline, the referee refused to stop the game.

Some reporters at the game put the length of time at five minutes before Bell got any attention. In fact, it was probably not more than three, but this is a mere detail. The referee clearly failed to heed the law which empowers him to stop the game at any time in the case of serious injury. No-one else could do anything about it. Palace were attacking for most of that three minutes and no-one could blame them for pressing for an equaliser in an important F.A. Cup-tie. Wolves equally had to concentrate on defending and their Manager, eager though he was to take first aid to his player, knew that he could have been suspended for going on to the field without permission, whatever the justification.

FORCED TO WALK . . .

Now the referee might be defended on the grounds that it is not unknown for players to feign injury, particularly when their side is leading, but in cases of doubt it is surely best to err on the side of safety and to stop the game, booking the 'play actor' if in fact this is the case.

This referee, however, not only refused to stop the game until the ball finally went out of play, but even when the trainer's initial look at the leg confirmed an almost certain fracture, he refused to allow a stretcher to be brought on, insisting that the hapless Bell be helped, hobbling off the field.

This could have caused far more serious damage to what turned out to be a broken fibula. Presumably Wolves (and maybe Palace) mentioned the referee's actions in their reports on him, but there seems to be no question of any action being taken against him. All of which must leave players, who risk serious injury every game, and fans who pay money to watch them do so, feeling rather unhappy.

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WIGAN ATHLETIC 1978-79

BACK ROW:

K. Smart, P. Houghton, N. Davids, G. Gay, J. Brown, F. Corrigan,
N. Ward, J. Hinnigan, J. Wright.

FRONT ROW:

I. McNeill (Manager), A. Crompton, I. Seddon, T. Gore, I. Gillibrand,
J. Wilkie, I. Purdie, K. Banks (Trainer)

PEN PICS

WELCOME TO WIGAN

Wigan Athletic, the Football League's newest club, have made an impact on their entry into the big time. It is not without some significance that the majority of the players in the team played last season for them in the Northern Premier League.

John Brown, in goal, was formerly with Preston and Stockport; Joe Hinnigan, a six-footer, is in his fourth season with the club after playing for South Liverpool; midfield Jeff Wright is another Athletic player with four years' service at Springfield Park after having played for Netherfield; and Noel Ward, who stands 6ft. 2ins., arrived at Wigan from his home town club, Portadown, in Northern Ireland via a spell with Aberdeen.

Frank Corrigan was recruited from Norwich Victoria and has become a firm favourite with the Wigan crowd; a former league player, Tommy Gore, was with Tranmere Rovers before joining Wigan for whom he was voted "Player of the Year" last season; and striker Peter Houghton, who got 10 goals in 17 matches last season, came from South Liverpool.

Newcomers to the club this season are Dave Fretwell, released by Bradford City to spend last summer in America from where he returned home to join Wigan; Ian Purdie, formerly with Aberdeen, Dundee and Motherwell and with an outing in Scotland's under 23 side; Micky Moore, a Wigan star who joined Port Vale, could not settle, and returned to Springfield Park; Kevin Smart, a young defender signed on free transfer from Plymouth; and Derek Brownbill, at one time with Port Vale.



AFTER THE MATCH VISIT . . .
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IN RETROSPECT

WIGAN ATHLETIC

Wigan Athletic have achieved what many footballing pundits considered to be impossible — bring back League football to a town that once turned its back on it. In October, 1931, Wigan Borough resigned their membership of Division Three North, suffering from the economic paralysis that struck the country as a whole, but the North West probably more than other areas. Attendances could not sustain a professional football club and Rugby League became the sport that Wigan was renowned for.

Wigan Borough folded, but the following year, another club was born and Athletic rose like the proverbial phoenix. They entered the Cheshire County League and immediately won the Championship in three successive seasons — 1933/34, 1934/35, 1935/36. They transferred membership to the Lancashire Combination and after the war won that Championship in 1947/48, 1950/51, 1952/53 and 1953/54. All the time the board of directors were developing Springfield Park in to one of the best appointed non-league grounds in the country, and in 1968/69 became founder members of the Northern Premier League, winning the title in 1970/71 and 1974/75. Up to last season, Wigan had the best overall playing record of any Northern Premier League club, failing to finish in the top three just twice in the ten years' existence of the League.

Their excellent playing record, augmented by stirring F.A. Cup performances, plus the excellent facilities at Springfield Park prompted the club the start applying for Football League membership. They received several rejections, probably for two reasons. Firstly their geographical situation — Lancashire/Cheshire is already over subscribed with 18 League clubs, including the giants of Merseyside and Manchester, causing teams like Rochdale, Stockport, Bury and Tranmere to struggle for support, and secondly the Football League probably found it hard to forget that the club's forerunners, Borough, renounced their commitments in the autumn of 1931, leaving the Third Division North to be decided on 40 matches that season.

Ironically, Wigan's successful application was somewhat fortuitous. They finished runners-up in the Northern Premier League to Boston United and according to agreement, the Champions are the nominee for Football League membership. Unfortunately for Boston, their ground facilities were not up to standard, so Wigan became the Northern applicant. At the expense of near neighbours Southport, they seized the chance and are now proving, both from a playing point of view and in attracting the fans, that the League's decision was no mistake.

A quick word about Borough. Founded in 1921 they gained immediate admission to Division Three North. In the ten seasons until their demise they usually occupied a position in the lower half of the table, though never actually having to apply for re-election.

The highest positions attained were, fourth in 1928/29 and fifth in 1922/23. They reached the Fourth Round of the F.A. Cup in 1923 and in the same season recorded their highest score — 9-1 against Lincoln City. Between 1921/22 and 1925/26 when the Mariners won the Northern Section Championship, ten games were played between the clubs of which no less than six were drawn. Of the remaining four matches Wigan certainly held the upper hand winning three games to Town's one.

Back to Athletic, and it's worthy of note that one of the Mariners most distinguished managers, C. W. Spencer, joined Grimsby from Wigan in 1937. After the war Town's First Division side, under Spencer, visited Springfield Park for a friendly game that attracted a 17,000 gate.

The only occasion Athletic have visited Blundell Park was on the 18th November, 1972 in Round One of the F.A. Cup. The non-leagueurs had former Mariners Graham Oates and Joe Fletcher in a side that put up a spirited opposition to Town then in the Third Division. In a highly physical game, the Mariners win 2-1 — but only just, Dave Boylen's winner coming six minutes from the end.

18th NOVEMBER, 1972

BLUNDELL PARK

ATTENDANCE 11,560

TOWN 2 (Brace, Boylen)

ATHLETIC 1 (Oates, Pen.)

Town: Turner, Campbell, Booth, Hickman, Wigginton, Gray, Brace, Hubbert, Tees,
Boylen, Gauden Substitute: Lewis

Athletic: Reeves, Morris, Sutherland, Taylor, Jackson, Gillibrand, Clements, Oates,
Fletcher, King, Worswick Substitute: Rogers

SPOTLIGHT ON TERRY DONOVAN

By: John Kirkby

Photograph Courtesy of the Grimsby Evening Telegraph

During the course of every player's career there is generally one serious injury.

For 19-year-old striker Terry Donovan that injury has occurred early in what must be a very promising career.

It came in the home match with Torquay in September and looked innocuous enough at the time. Anxious to get back, Terry played in a Reserve game at Doncaster, but clearly the ankle wasn't ready and he had to go back in plaster.

Now, hopefully, all that is behind the youngster, and everybody connected with Grimsby Town will be hoping that Terry is ready for the vital end of season period in which promotion will become a dream realised or just a passing daydream.

Terry has come a long way since his Matthew Humberstone schooldays and his Midland League days with Louth United. He appeared for the England Schools' Under-18 team with Kevin Moore and whatever our feelings about Tom Casey, he did sign Terry for Grimsby Town.

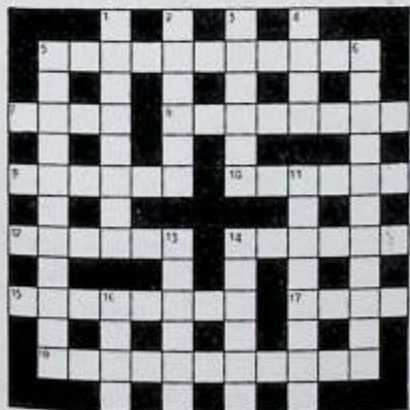
With his father having played with much distinction for Grimsby, Everton and Eire, Terry has much to live up to. Exciting strikers like Terry are not exactly ten-a-penny.



MAN IN THE MIDDLE

KEN A. REDFERN (Whitley Bay). Commenced refereeing at University but tended to be a player until 1970. Northern League 1972 and Football League in 1973. Refereed the Northumberland Senior Cup Final in 1976. A former County Schoolboy and Under 18 Amateur with Newcastle United. His hobbies are cricket and athletics. A married man with three children and is a self-employed jeweller.

CROSSWORD NUMBER 21



Across

5. The man who successfully replaced Keegan at Liverpool (3,8)
7. He holds up the hooker. is useful with the line-out (not on washdays) (4)
8. Home of proud Preston (8)
9. Famous golf course near Blackpool (6)
10. Specially sharpened in the early days of cockfighting (6)
12. Commentator on wrestling (6)
14. A Scottish ring about this southern team (6)
15. Winter sports where distances 'could probably be measured with a slide rule' (3,5)
17. Former British boxer, now a referee, handled recent Sykes contest (4)
18. In which D J's break the tapes (6,5)

Down

1. A picture goal! (4,4)
2. Two up and two to go on this (a daisy chain might help) (6)
3. The owner of Derby winner Sir Ivor (1,5)
4. Watch the dickie! on T.V. cricket (4)
5. The man who shook the cricket world (5,6)
6. Milord doesn't seem to be all there in the ring (4,7)
11. Looks as though 'Jim lad' will need a runner (3,5)
13. The towel is thrown in (2,4)
14. Bank managers appreciate these (6)
16. He's alright amongst the woods (4)

SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD No. 20

Across

5. First at last, 7. Agog, 8. Uniforms, 9. String, 10. Les Dyl, 12. Knight, 14. Cosmos, 15. A Fast One, 17. Lets, 18. The Third Man

Down

1. Bragging, 2. Strung, 3. At Wit, 4. Faro, 5. Fighting Fit, 6. Tommy Horton, 11. So Solemn, 13. Too Shy, 14. Cherry, 16. Sues

LINE-UP

GRIMSBY

- 1 NIGEL BATCH
- 2 DAVE MOORE
- 3 KEVIN MOORE
- 4 JOE WATERS
- 5 CLIVE WIGGINTON
- 6 DEAN CROMBIE
- 7 MIKE BROLLY
- 8 TONY FORD
- 9 KEVIN DRINKELL
- 10 BOBBY MITCHELL
- 11 BOBBY CUMMING
- 12 GARY LIDDELL

WIGAN

- 1 JOHN BROWN
- 2 KEVIN SMART
- 3 JOE HINNIGAN
- 4 TOM GORE
- 5 NOEL WARD
- 6 DAVID FRETWELL
- 7 FRANK CORRIGAN
- 8 JEFF WRIGHT
- 9 PETER HOUGHTON
- 10 MICKEY MOORE
- 11 IAN PURDIE
- 12 DAVID BRANDVILLE

HALF-TIME SCORES

SECTION A

A- Arsenal	v	Man. City	.....
B- Aston Villa	v	Tottenham	.....
C- Bolton	v	Southampton	.....
D- Chelsea	v	Wolves	.....
E- Derby	v	Everton	.....
F- Liverpool	v	Ipswich	.....
G- Man. Utd.	v	Leeds Utd.	.....
H- Middlesbro'	v	Birmingham	.....
J- Norwich	v	Bristol City	.....
K- Nottm. Forest	v	Coventry	.....
L- West Brom.	v	Q.P.R.	.....

M- Blackburn	v	Preston	.....
N- Bristol Rovers	v	Oldham	.....
O- Burnley	v	Charlton	.....
P- Cambridge	v	Brighton	.....
Q- Cardiff	v	Stoke	.....
R- Luton	v	Crystal Palace	.....
S- Millwall	v	Notts. County	.....
T- Sheff. Utd.	v	Leicester	.....
U- Sunderland	v	Orient	.....
V- West Ham	v	Newcastle	.....
W- Wrexham	v	Fulham	.....

SECTION B

A- Blackpool	v	Watford	.....
B- Chesterfield	v	Carlisle	.....
C- Colchester	v	Brentford	.....
D- Exeter	v	Sheff. Wed.	.....
E- Gillingham	v	Mansfield	.....
F- Hull	v	Rotherham	.....
G- Lincoln	v	Swansea	.....
H- Peterborough	v	Plymouth	.....
J- Shrewsbury	v	Oxford	.....
K- Southend	v	Bury	.....
L- Swindon	v	Tranmere	.....
M- Walsall	v	Chester	.....

N- Aldershot	v	Newport	.....
O- Barnsley	v	Crewe	.....
P- Bournemouth	v	Scunthorpe	.....
Q- Hereford	v	Bradford City	.....
R- Huddersfield	v	Darlington	.....
S- Northampton	v	Torquay	.....
T- Portsmouth	v	York	
U- Port Vale	v	Wimbledon	
V- Rochdale	v	Reading	
W- Stockport	v	Halifax	

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LINESMEN:

Red Flag: C. C. BROOKES - Nottingham

Yellow Flag: T. S. PAGE - Boston - Lincs.